MINUTES

Oct 1859

OF THE

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION

OF

ORANGE PRESBYTERY,

HELD IN THE

CHURCH IN CLARKSVILLE, VA.,

October, 1859.

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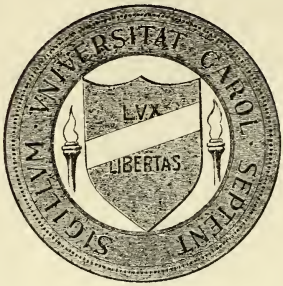

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MINUTES

OF

ORANGE PRESBYTERY.

Clarkesville, Virginia, October 28th, 1859.

Presbytery met according to adjournment and was opened with a sermon by Rev. E. Hines, Moderator, from Heb. 7: 25.

Constituted with prayer.

Present: G. W. Ferrill, E. Hines, A. Currie, C. K. Caldwell, S. A. Stanfield, F. N. Whaley, T. U. Faucette, J. M. Sherwood, J. M. Kirkpatrick, J. W. Montgomery, J. M. Atkinson, P. H. Dalton, W. L. Miller, J. B. Shearer, J. Henry Smith, E. H. Harding and F. H. Johnston, Ministers, with A. J. Hughes, Hugh McAden, Dr. James L. Wortham, S. S. Clayton, T. J. Gregory G. W. White, R. I. Smith, J. J. Daniel, M. V. Lanier, John W. Thackston, Dr. C. L. Payne, J. W. Norwood, W. L. Owen, G. W. Thompson and W. W. Wharton, Ruling Elders.

Absent: E. W. Caruthers, D. D., Thomas Lynch, A. Wilson, D. D., James Phillips, D. D., J. Doll, E. C. Bittenger, A. G. Hughes. N. Z. Graves, T. G. Wall, P. A. McMartin and T. B. Neill, Ministers.

Rev. Willis L. Miller was chosen Moderator and Rev. T. U. Faucette and Rev. J. B. Shearer, temporary Clerks.

The reading of the minutes of the last meeting of Presbytery was dispensed with.

Presbytery then adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Closed with prayer.

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Saturday Morning, Oct. 29th, 1859.

Presbytery met according to adjournment and was opened with prayer.

The minutes of last evening's Session were read and approved.

Letters were received from J. Doll, T. B. Neill, N. Z. Graves and A. G. Hughes, Ministers, giving satisfactory reasons for absence from the present Sessions of Presbytery.

A circular letter from the Board of Education was read and referred to a Committee consisting of Rev. A.Currie, Rev. C. K. Caldwell and W. W. Wharton.

The report of the Committee of Domestic Missions was made the order of the day for Monday evening at 7 o'clock.

The Committee apppointed to organize a church at High Point and at Leakesville, reported that a church had been organized at High Point, but that the way was not open for an organization at Leakesville at present.

Rev. Stephen Mattoon of the Presbytery of Siam, being present was invited to sit as a corresponding member.

Satisfactory reasons were rendered by Rev. Messrs. Ferrill, Graves and Miller for absence from the last Sessions of Presbytery.

The Moderator announced the following additions to the regular standing Committees on the examination of candidates:

On the	1st	Committee	Mr. W. W. Wharton,
"	2d	"	Mr. G. W. White,
"	3d	"	Dr. J. L. Wortham,
"	4th	"	Mr. T. J. Gregory,
"	5th	"	Dr. C. L. Payne,
"	6th	"	Mr. M. V. Lanier,
"	7th	"	Mr. G. W. Thompson,
"	8th	"	Mr. R. I. Smith.

A call from the Madison Church for the Pastoral services of Rev. D. E. Jordan was presented to Presbytery and being found in order was placed in his hands.

Upon mutual application the pastoral relation between Rev. G. W. Ferrill and the Spring Grove Church was dissolved and the Rev. T. U. Faucette was appointed to visit the church and declare it vacant.

The Rev. R. N. Anderson of Roanoke Presbytery being present was invited to sit as a corresponding member.

A call from the church in Pittsboro for the pastoral services of Rev. C. K. Caldwell was presented to Presbytery and being found in order was placed in his hands and accepted.

Whereupon the first Sabbath in December was appointed for his installation by the following Committee, viz: Rev. James Phillips, D. D., to preach the sermon and propose the constitutional questions, and the Rev. A. Currie his alternate, Rev. Jno. B. Shearer to change the pastor and people, and the Rev. A. G. Hughes his alternate.

Mr. W. W. Wharton was appointed Treasurer *pro tem.*

Rev. Messrs. Caldwell, Shearer and Dalton were appointed a Committee to organize a church at Haywood if the way be open.

Rev. J. Henry Smith and Mr. W. L. Owen were appointed a Committee on the Minutes of the General Assembly.

Rev. Messrs. Currie and Dalton were appointed a Committee to prepare a narrative of the state of religion within the bounds of this Presbytery.

The following subjects were assigned to Mr. A. Kirkland as parts of trial:

For a Lecture	23d Psalm,
" " Popular Sermon	John 3 : 16.
" " Critical Exercise	Rom. 6 : 16.
" " Latin Exegesis	" *An Christus Deus Sit?*"

The following Ministers and Ruling Elders were nominated as commissioners to the next General Assembly, viz: Messrs. Miller, Kirkpatrick, Hines, Neill and McMartin, Ministers, with Messrs. D. P. Weir, Stephen Neal, M. V. Lanier, E. G. Reade and A. W. Venable.

Memorials relative to changing the Presbyterial and Synodical relations of the Clarksville and Spring Hill churches were read and a verbal report was made by the pastor of Danville church on the same subject.

After some discussion the whole matter was referred to a Committee consisting of Rev. J. H. Smith, Rev. J. M. Atkinson, Rev. J. W. Montgomery and Mr. M. V. Lanier.

The semi-annual sermon by Rev. P. A. McMartin was defer-

red until the next stated meeting of Presbytery in consequence of his absence.

The churches were called on to report if they obey the order enjoining the payment of the expenses of their delegates to our church judicatories. Whereupon it was

Resolved, That those churches which have failed to bear the expenses of their delegates to our ecclesiastical meetings, and those pastors and stated supplies who have not brought this matter before their churches, be and are hereby solemnly reminded by this body of their duty.

A letter from C. H, Wiley was read, giving satisfactory reasons for absence from the present Sessions of Presbytery.

The Committee appointed to visit Chapel Hill made the following report which was accepted and adopted:

"The undersigned, a majority of the Committee appointed at the last stated Sessions of Presbytery to confer with the parties who contracted with the Trustees of the University for the purchase of the ground, &c., report, that they went to Chapel Hill in August and had a conference with the brethren and have received from them the following statement of the facts in the case, viz:

I. When the lot was purchased from the Trustees of the University, and while the house was in building, the church members at Chapel Hill deliberately resolved to allow the title to remain in the hands of the Trustees of the University; so that that highly respectable and permanent body of men might act as Trustees for them, so far as this property was concerned. Presbyterianism has always had a fluctuating existence in Chapel Hill, and one object that the church had in its decision was to secure for the benefit of the students of the University, and under the control of the Presbytery of Orange a place of worship, where the Presbytery might have its doctrines preached even if there were no members of its church in the village of Chapel Hill, or among the students or among the Faculty of the University. The church had not then, and those who composed it then have not now, any fear that this trust will ever be abused by the Trustees of the University. If it ever should be abused, no property in Chapel Hill would be worth claiming.

Another reason, for thus choosing the Trustees of the University to be their Trustees as to this lot and the house, was to put freely and unsolicited into the hands of the Trustees of the University a guarantee that whatever might be the aims or the results of similar enterprises at Chapel Hill, the builders of this house never intended to interfere with the religious instructions of the University, either directly or indirectly. They would not solicit the presence of the students at this house when it would cause an absence from the regular services of the College Chapel, nor would they grant them an opportunity for such an absence, nor in any way try to bring the religious exercises of the College Chapel into disrespect with the students or with the citizens of the village. As these reasons have lost none of their influence, those now left to feel them must continue to obey them. Therefore while they cannot prevent, they must decline to endorse any request that the Trustees of the University would transfer the title for this house and lot to other Trustees appointed by the present church and congregation.

II. As to the opposition to holding religious worship in this house "on Sunday forenoon and at any time simultaneously with the performance of Chapel worship," it can be said it is no new thing. It was announced at the dedication of the church, the paper then read was transmitted to the Trustees of the University, it was recorded in the session book and there it has been repeatedly read and approved by Presbytery. This position was assumed when others around us were doing differently, and as yet they have seen no good reason for following their example. Until some ten years ago all the students in the University were required to attend public worship in the College Chapel on Sunday morning. While this was the rule, they remonstrated with those who began to have religious services simultaneously with the College worship, as inaugurating a series of influences, which must be injurious to the University and the town. The life of the town is drawn from the University and the vigor of the University depends on the confidence that the moral and religious portion of the public have in its teachings and discipline.

There is no way of controlling the young men who resort to

the University, except through their consciences, and the foolishness of preaching is still the divinely appointed means of educating the conscience. That the worship of God should be maintained in the College Chapel is to those concerned in this question a matter of prime necessity. They think that its support ought to be decided and hearty and that its influence should not be thwarted by any means direct or indirect.

Hence they have always deprecated the opening of places of worship which would lead the students into the temptation of leaving their own preaching, a temptation peculiarly strong when aided by denominational antipathies. Afterwards, when the present College rule "that students who are communicants may attend their own church in the village" was adopted, it became to them more necessary than ever to abide by the opposition to morning worship in the village. If full opportunities were granted to the professedly pious to avail themselves of this permission and were the consciences of all trained as some are, the effect of this rule would be to empty the College Chapel of every soul able to join in the prayers of the preacher for blessings on themselves and their associates from a Father in Heaven. That this lamentable result is not now to be wept over is owing mainly to the pertinacity with which some Presbyterians have refrained from giving the members of our church the opportunity, which the rule of the Trustees allows them to embrace, when proffered by others. They must still decline to offer these opportunities. They asked the brethren abroad to help to put up a house "for the benefit of the students of the University." They firmly believe that a morning service at our church would be to the injury immediate and decided, of all the students. It would take the salt in College from the world in College. The salt would not season where Providence intended it to act, and the world would go on, unseasoned and corruptible, to its full destruction. They cannot consent to use their money directly or indirectly to injure their pupils, to impede themselves in working for their good, or to prejudice the interests of the University from which they derive their support, by, in any way, yielding to a movement begun and even now to a considerable extent, maintained by a feeling that the College Chapel is not a fit place for the worship of Almighty God.

The foregoing objections were not removed by the visit of your Committee to Chapel Hill; they are entertained by three brethren who are members of the Faculty. Your Committee, however, respectfully suggest that inasmuch as the church at Chapel Hill was built as a Presbyterian Church for the benefit of the students and to be under the care of Presbytery, there should be no departure in regard to title to this particular property from the usages of our church which are in accordance with the laws of the State, that the Presbyterian Church at Chapel Hill should be placed upon the same footing of churches of other denominations in the village in regard to church privileges. It is therefore recommended that a Committee be appointed by Presbytery to coöperate with the Trustees of the Presbyterian congregation at Chapel Hill in an application to the University Trustees for a proper title to be made to the lot and church edifice aforesaid. Your Committee are ot opinion that such title would be made, for there has been no evidence laid before the Committee that the Trustees of the University ever assented to act as trustees of said church or that they desire now to retain the title, more especially as they have granted the privilege to students who are communicants to attend their respective churches in the village at the eleven o'clock service, and it is not to be supposed that it is in accordance with the views of the Trustees to exclude Presbyterian communicants from a privilege which is granted to all.

Respectfully submitted,

GILES MEBANE,

J. W. NORWOOD.

Whereupon the following preamble and resolution was adopted, viz:

Whereas, Presbytery with a respectful regard to the views and feelings of the par ties who contracted for the purchase of the lot, on which the church edifice at Chapel Hill is erected, have fully and candidly considered their objections and arguments as the same are set forth in the report of the Committee appointed at the last meeting to confer with them, and find therein no cause tochange the opinion heretofore expressed by the Presbytery in relation thereto. It is therefore.

Resolved, In accordance with the recommendation of the Committee contained in their report aforesaid, that a Committee consisting of Rev. S. A. Stanfield, Rev. Joseph M. Atkinson, Rev. Willis L. Miller, Messrs. John W. Norwood, Edwin G. Reade, Ralph Gorrell, Giles Mebane and M. V. Lanier be appointed to coöperate in behalf of this Presbytery with the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church and congregation at Chapel Hill in an application to the University Trustees for a proper title to be made to the Trustees of the said church of the lot and church edifice aforesaid in trust for the use of the said church, and report to the Presbytery at its next stated meeting. And that the Clerk notify those members of the Committee who are not present, of their appointment.

The ministers present were called on to report as to their observance of the 3d chapter of the directory for public worship.

The Ministers and Elders present reported that they have no poor in their congregations supported by public charity.

Rev. F. N. Whaley was substituted for Rev. P. H. Dalton to organize a church in Warrenton it the way be open.

The missionary supplies were called on to report, and it appeared that most of them had filled their appointments.

Hillsboro,' N. C. was chosen as the place for the next stated meeting of Presbytery, to commence on the second Wednesday in June 1860 at 8 o'clock, P. M.

A memorial from Shiloh Church, on the subject of creating a permanent fund for the support of disabled ministers, was read and referred to a Committee consisting of Messrs. John W. Norwood, T. J. Gregory and M. V. Lanier.

By invitation the Rev. Mr. Mattoon, of Siam, addressed the Presbytery on the subject of Foreign Missions.

Whereupon, the following resolution was adopted, viz:

Resolved, That the Presbytery of Orange have listened with deep interest to the address of the Rev. Mr. Mattoon on the subject of Foreign Missions, that they gratefully acknowledge the goodness of the Great Head of the church in putting it into the hearts of so many to consecrate themselves to the work, and recognize the obligation which it imposes on them to increase their contributions to this object, and therefore most earnestly

commend its claims to the churches under their care, not forgetting to make continued and earnest supplication to God in their behalf.

Presbytery then adjourned to meet on Monday morning at 9 o'clock. Closed with prayer.

Monday Morning, Oct. 31, 1859.

Presbytery met according to adjournment and was opened with prayer.

The minutes of Saturday were read and approved.

The Committee on the memorial from Shiloh Church made the following report which was accepted and adopted, viz:

The Committee to whom was referred the memorial from the church of Shiloh upon the subject of creating a permanent fund for the support of disabled Ministers beg leave to report that they have considered the same and deem it inexpedient for the Presbytery at present to take action in the matter.

Rev. F. H. Johnston was appointed to make out the Presbyterial report to the Synod of N. C., on the subject of systematic benevolence.

The hour for the free conversation on the state of religion having arrived, the subject was taken up. After which the Committee appointed to prepare a narrative made a report which was accepted and adopted and a copy ordered to be forwarded to Synod.

The report of the Committee on the circular from the Board of Education was read, received and laid on the table.

The church at Roxboro' was commended to the attention of the Presbyterial Committee of church extension.

The following ministers and ruling Elders were elected Commissioners to the next General Assembly, viz: Willis L. Miller and Edward Hines, Ministers, Mr. M. V. Lanier and Edwin G. Reade, Ruling Elders.

The following ministers and ruling Elders were chosen as alternates in the order in which they stand, viz:

P. A. McMartin and J. M. Kirkpatrick, Ministers. A. W. Venable and Dr. D. P. Weir, Ruling Elders.

The Committee of Domestic Missions nominated the following list of supplies which was accepted and adopted, viz:

Rev. C. Phillips	one Sabbath	Kinston,
" T. G. Wall,	3d Sab. in December,	"
" J. M. Sherwood,	3d " " January,	"
" J. M. Atkinson,	3d " " February,	"
" J. B. Shearer,	3d " " March,	"
" A. Currie,	3d " " April,	"
" A. G. Hughes,	3d " " May,	"
Rev. F. N. Whaley,	4 " " November,	Warrenton,
" E. Hines,	4 " " December,	"
" J. Doll,	4 " " January,	"
" C. Phillips,	4 " " February,	"
" C. H. Wiley,	4 " " March,	"
" P. A. McMartin,	4 " " April,	"
" J. H. Smith,	4 " " May,	"
Rev. S. A. Stanfield,	one Sabbath,	Leaksville,
" J. M. Kirkpatrick,	" "	"
Rev. J. W. Montgomery,	one Sabbath,	Wentworth,
Rev. D. E. Jordan,	" "	Hillsdale,
Alex. Wilson, D. D.,	" "	Louisburg,
C. H. Wiley,	" "	"
E. W. Caruthers, D. D.,	two Sabbaths,	Richland,
C. H. Wiley,	one "	High Point,
James Phillips, D. D.,	" "	" "
Rev. F. H. Johnston,	" "	Hopewell,
Rev. E. H. Harding,	" "	Penuil,
Rev. Thos. U. Faucette,	" "	Spring Grove,
Rev. Joseph M. Atkinson,	" "	Halifax Co.,

The Committee on the Minutes of the General Assembly made the following report which was accepted and adopted, viz:

The Committee on the Minutes of the General Assembly report the following:

1. We call to the attention of Presbytery the resolution of the

Assembly on the subject of Presbyterial oversight of candidates, and suggest the appointment of a Committee to report a detailed plan to the next meeting of the Presbytery.

2. We recommend to the Churches under the care of this Presbytery the observance of the second Monday of January 1860 as a season of special prayer for the conversion of the world.

3. We recommend earnestly the resolution of the Assembly on the sanctification of the Sabbath, to the attention of our pastors and sessions.

Rev. J. Henry Smith and Rev. J. Doll were then appointed a Committee in accordance with the suggestion in the 1st Sec. of the above report.

Rev. J. W. Montgomery was appointed to organize a church at Wentworth if the way be open.

The Committee on the memorials from the Churches of Clarkesville and Spring Hill made the following report which was accepted and adopted, viz :

The Committee to whom were referred the memorials in relation to the Churches of Clarkesville and Spring Hill, report, that they have considered the subject and in view of the fact that the Church of Danville has not concurred and the Church of Penuil has not been consulted in the action of the other Churches, would recommend that the matter be submitted anew to these several Churches that harmony of action may be attained if possible.

Resolved, That Rev. S. A. Stanfield be and is hereby elected by this Presbytery an Evangelist for the Eastern portion of Orange Presbytery for one year, and that his salary be One Thousand Dollars to be paid in regular quarterly installments from the time that he begins his work.

The Committee on systematic benevolence made the following report which was accepted and adopted, viz :

Your committee begs leave to make the following report on systematic benevolence in Orange Presbytery. It appears on the whole that the contributions to the several Boards of our church and the various objects of benevolence have been on the increase during the past year, and on the part of several of the churches within our bounds, this increase is very gratifying and

affords occasion for special thanksgiving. It is a matter of regret, however, that more than one third of our churches have either given very little or nothing towards benevolent purposes. Some have given nothing and others, while they have contributed something to one or two of the Boards, have neglected the others entirely. Your Committee would respectfully suggest the propriety of calling the attention of these churches, many of which are vacant, to their duty in this respect, and recommends that Pastors and Stated Supplies appointed by Presbytery to visit and preach at all our vacant churches, be requested to bring the matter more prominently before them, and enjoin it upon them to give statedly of their means to the carrying out of the christian and benevolent purposes of our church.

An adjourned meeting of Presbytery was appointed to convene at Madison, N. C., at 12 o'clock on Friday before the 1st Sabbath in December next, with a view to the ordination and installation of Mr. D. E. Jordan if the way be open;

Rev. J. Henry Smith to preside, preach the ordination sermon, make the ordination prayer and propose the constitutional questions. And Rev. S. A. Stanfield was appointed his alternate.

Rev. J. Doll to charge the people and Rev. John M. Kirkpatrick his alternate; Rev. John W. Montgomery to charge the Pastor and the Rev. F. H. Johnston his alternate.

2d Cor. 5 : 21, was assigned to Mr. Jordan as a text for a trial sermon.

Permission was granted by Presbytery to the members of Speedwell Church to join at Wentworth so soon as a church shall be organized at that place; there being no Session at Speedwell to grant them a regular dismission.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Presbytery be tendered through the Pastor of this church, to the people of Clarkesville and vicinity for their kindness and hospitality to the members of this Presbytery—to the Episcopal, Methodist and Baptist churches for the tender of their houses of worship, and to the R. R. Company for their kindness to the members of this Presbytery.

Presbytery then adjourned to meet in Wilmington, N. C., during the Sessions of Synod at the call of the Moderator.

Closed with prayer. J. Doll, *Stated Clerk.*

MINUTES

OF

THE ADJOURNED MEETING.

Wilmington, N. C., Nov. 2nd, 1859.

Presbytery met at the call of the Moderator and was opened with prayer. But not being prepared for business a recess was taken to meet at the call of the Moderator.

Thursday, Nov. 3rd, 1859.—Presbytery met at the call of the Moderator, when Rev. Messrs. Willis L. Miller, P. H. Dalton, C. Phillips and T. G. Wall were appointed a Committee to confer with Fayetteville Presbytery with reference to changing the boundary line between them. Presbytery then took a recess to meet again at the call of the Moderator.

Friday, November 4th, 1859.--Presbytery met at the call of the Moderator; when the Committee appointed to confer with Fayetteville Presbytery in regard to the boundary line between them, reported that they had discharged this duty and that nothing can be done at present. Presbytery then took a recess to meet again at the call of the Moderator.

Saturday, November 5, 1859.--Presbytery met at the call of the Moderator.

Whereupon, the Presbytery adjourned to meet in Madison, N. C., at 12 o'clock, M., on Friday before the first Sabbath in December, 1859. Closed with prayer.

J. Doll, *Stated Clerk.*

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